



***Sent on behalf of Dr. Howard Landa, VP of Clinical Informatics and EHR***

To All Sutter Physicians and Advanced Practice Clinicians:

As many of you know, we have been working for the last few months to comply with new federal legislation that prohibits information blocking starting 10/29/20. This will enable our patients to electronically access more of their medical records, including the full text of clinical notes and immediate access to radiology and most laboratory results.

There is a great deal of information in the [attached System Notice](#), but here are a few key elements to be aware of:

- 1) Most notes created 10/29/20 and moving forward will be released. These include History and Physicals, Consultations, Procedure, Progress and Discharge notes.
  - a. These notes are released as soon as they are signed (or co-signed if this is required) in all clinical settings. They contain the full text of the note and the author's first and last name.
  - b. Providers can block the release of a note if the patient asks (for privacy) or if seeing the note could cause physical harm to the patient or other individuals. Additional exceptions to the regulation are detailed in the attached System Notice, with links to technical instructions.
- 2) Most Imaging and Lab results will be immediately released upon resulting. This means that the prior functionality of releasing results to patients when the result is "Done" no longer is necessary. There are four lab types (HIV, Hepatitis, Drug screens and Histology/Pathology) restricted from release to patient before an oral discussion of the results, so these can only be manually released through a new workflow described in the attached System Notice.
- 3) If patients wish to obtain more of their medical records and notes created earlier than 10/29/20, they must use the established HIM release process.

There are a number of other changes described in the System Notice so please read those sections applicable to your role.

In addition to the System Notice, you can find a Provider FAQ at our OpenNotes and Results Release Resource Page [here](#). For questions not addressed there, feel to reach out at [clinicians@sutterhealth.org](mailto:clinicians@sutterhealth.org).

Thank you for all you do for our patients.